

FLTEACH Assignment

Purposes:

- Acquire a professional's perspective on the daily responsibilities, pressures, and emotions associated with classroom teaching through reflection and inquiry by engaging in [professional dialogue and reflection with colleagues](#) (INTASC Standard 9 – Reflective Practice & Professional Development, INTASC Standard 10 – Community)
- Use professional reading to develop a [research-based repertoire](#) of instructional strategies that are consistent with your own developing philosophies of teaching, learning, management, and evaluation and which help secondary students meet each of the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning (INTASC Standard 1 – Content Knowledge, 2 – Learner Development, 4 – Instructional Strategies, & 7 – Planning for Instruction)
- Formulate a professional identity as you clarify your values and explore how they affect your philosophy of teaching and learning (INTASC Standard 9 – Reflective Practice & Professional Development)
- Utilize a variety of emerging [technologies](#) to enhance instruction, develop language proficiency and cultural competence, and improve your professional productivity (INTASC Standard 4 – Instructional Strategies, INTASC Standard 5 – Learning Environment, INTASC Standard 6 – Communication)

Instructions:

- 1) Follow at least 5 threads that are posted to FLTEACH for one month. You may do so by subscribing to the [FLTEACH](#) listserv (there is no charge for doing so) <http://www.cortland.edu/flteach/#subscribing> or by visiting the archives: <http://listserv.buffalo.edu/archives/flteach.html>
- 2) As you read each posting, consider the following questions (you don't have to write anything down, but be prepared to discuss these in class):
 - a) What were the author's **purposes** in posting the message to FLTEACH?
 - To engage the audience in a **philosophical or theoretical** discussion
 - To **locate materials** or resources
 - To **obtain clarification** re: language usage, cultural issues, grammatical patterns and structures, or vocabulary
 - To **offer an opinion** on a controversial topic, current event, or issue
 - To **request advice** or potential solutions to a problem
 - To seek **emotional support** or to **vent**
 - To **share** ideas, information, materials, or services

FLTEACH Assignment

b) How did the **audience respond** to the author's message?

- **Quantity:** Many or few responses?
- **Tone:** Supportive/empathetic or critical responses?
- **Format/Organization:** Well-organized, quickly absorbed at a glance, and easy to locate key ideas, or "stream-of-consciousness" response with dense text and few paragraph breaks?
- **Content:** One option or many alternatives? Concrete suggestions or vague advice/opinions? Directly related to the question asked or not?
- **Quality:** Accurate, authoritative, complete, current, and substantive or questionable, incomplete, outdated, or weak?
- **Timeliness:** Offered within a few days of the original posting or long after?

c) Do you think the author **got what s/he expected**, needed, and wanted? What is your hypothesis about why that was the case?

d) Were there any **responses that were so good** that they grabbed your attention or made you want to save them? What made the "good" ones "good?"

e) Were there any **responses that were so bad** that you couldn't believe they had been posted? What made them so "bad?"

3) Choose at least 3 different threads (a.k.a. topics) you followed and prepare to discuss the following in class:

- What is the name of the thread? (Subject line of the messages)
- What question is being discussed? (Often directly stated in the original posting, but sometimes just referred to in subsequent postings)
- What are the key issues involved? (Think in terms of a bulleted list)
- What is your opinion on the matter? Does it converge with those that were posted? Did you post a message to FLTEACH in response to the thread? If so, why? If not, why not?
- In what ways does the discussion of this topic influence your understanding of teaching and learning a world language?

FLTEACH Assignment

- 4) Prepare a single-sided, one-page handout (could take the form of a brochure, a single PowerPoint slide, a Scrapblog, or an 8½ x 11" page) that includes the following elements:

Summarize

- At least one statement (from you) that explains how your understanding of teaching and learning a world language has changed as a result of participating in FLTEACH
- At least one statement (from you) about what you have learned about participating in professional communities

Reflect

- Three short quotes from different postings you read that you felt were powerful

Connect

- At least one quote from something else you have read that connects to the ideas above (could be something a student or a teacher at school said to you, a short quote from your favorite magazine or novel, a short quote from a professional article or website, something a classmate posted on our wiki discussion board, etc.)

Extend/Preview

- At least 1 image that represents something you will do differently in the future as a result of having participated in FLTEACH

You can view sample projects here:

<http://languagelinks2006.wikispaces.com/FLTEACH+Projects>